

SENSITIVE

CIA/OCI

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Item No.: WH # 2

DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

Fighting in the central highlands increased yesterday as Communist forces attacked a Ranger fire support base southwest of Pleiku City in Thanh An District. The Rangers reportedly suffered only light losses while over 100 Communists were killed by supporting air strikes and artillery. During the attacks on the base, the nearby Headquarters of the 22nd ARVN Division was hit with about 60 rockets but only minor damage was reported. The rocketing probably was intended as a diversion to prevent reinforcements from going to the Rangers' aid.

The Communists recently have been building up their forces in this area and are now believed to have two regiments of the North Vietnamese 320th Division there. These forces are being

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